

HERITAGE STATEMENT FOR PROPOSED STORM WATER REHABILITATION MEASURES AT ZEVENZICHT AND ZEVENDAL RESIDENTIAL ESTATES, KUILS RIVER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, WESTERN CAPE

(Assessment conducted under Section 38 (8) of the
National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) as part of an EIA)

Prepared for

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 494, Cape Town, 8000.
Phone: (021) 481 2400 Fax: (021) 424 5588
Email: Mel.Pillay@af.aurecongroup.com

1st draft: 09 June 2010
Revised 25th October 2010



Prepared by

Jayson Orton

Archaeology Contracts Office
Department of Archaeology
University of Cape Town
Private Bag
Rondebosch
7701

Phone (021) 650 2357
Fax (021) 650 2352
Email Jayson.Orton@uct.ac.za

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UCT Archaeology Contracts Office was requested by Aurecon to conduct an assessment of heritage resources in the footprint of proposed measures to rehabilitate the storm water system alongside the Zevenzicht and Zevendal Residential Estates in Kuils River. The remedial action is required to prevent seasonal flooding at the Zevenzicht and Eikenbosch Residential Estates and will comprise of building an earth berm and channel alongside Langverwacht Road as well as installing pipes and culverts beneath access roads. The berm will be about 180 m long, 0.8 m high and covered with grass. The affected properties are erf 14566 (Zevendal) and erf 16770 (Zevenzicht) and they are zoned private open space.

The site is grass-covered and is heavily modified by modern development. A stream runs through the site but this was artificially created through the diversion of storm water runoff.

No heritage resources were located in the study area and, although visibility was very poor due to thick grass, no significant heritage resources are expected to be impacted. Isolated stone artefacts may occur but these will have lost their primary context during historical and recent agriculture and other development.

Subject to the approval of Heritage Western Cape, the proposed actions should be allowed to proceed with no further heritage work required.

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. HERITAGE LEGISLATION	4
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	5
4. HERITAGE CONTEXT	6
5. METHODS	6
5.1. Limitations	6
6. FINDINGS	6
6.1. Palaeontology and Archaeology.....	6
No palaeontological or archaeological material was noted and no significant finds are expected to occur. The possibility of uncovering or displacing isolated stone artefacts does exist, however.	7
6.2. Built environment.....	7
6.3. Visual impact.....	7
7. CONCLUSIONS	7
8. RECOMMENDATIONS	7
9. REFERENCES	7

1. INTRODUCTION

The UCT Archaeology Contracts Office was requested by Aurecon to conduct an assessment of heritage resources in the footprint of proposed measures to rehabilitate the storm water system alongside the Zevenzicht and Zevendal Residential Estates in Kuils River (Figures 1 & 2). The remedial action is required to prevent seasonal flooding at the Zevenzicht and Eikenbosch Residential Estates and will comprise of building an earth berm and channel alongside Langverwacht Road as well as installing pipes and culverts beneath access roads. The berm will be about 180 m long, 0.8 m high and covered with grass. The affected properties are erf 14566 (Zevendal) and erf 16770 (Zevenzicht) and they are zoned private open space.

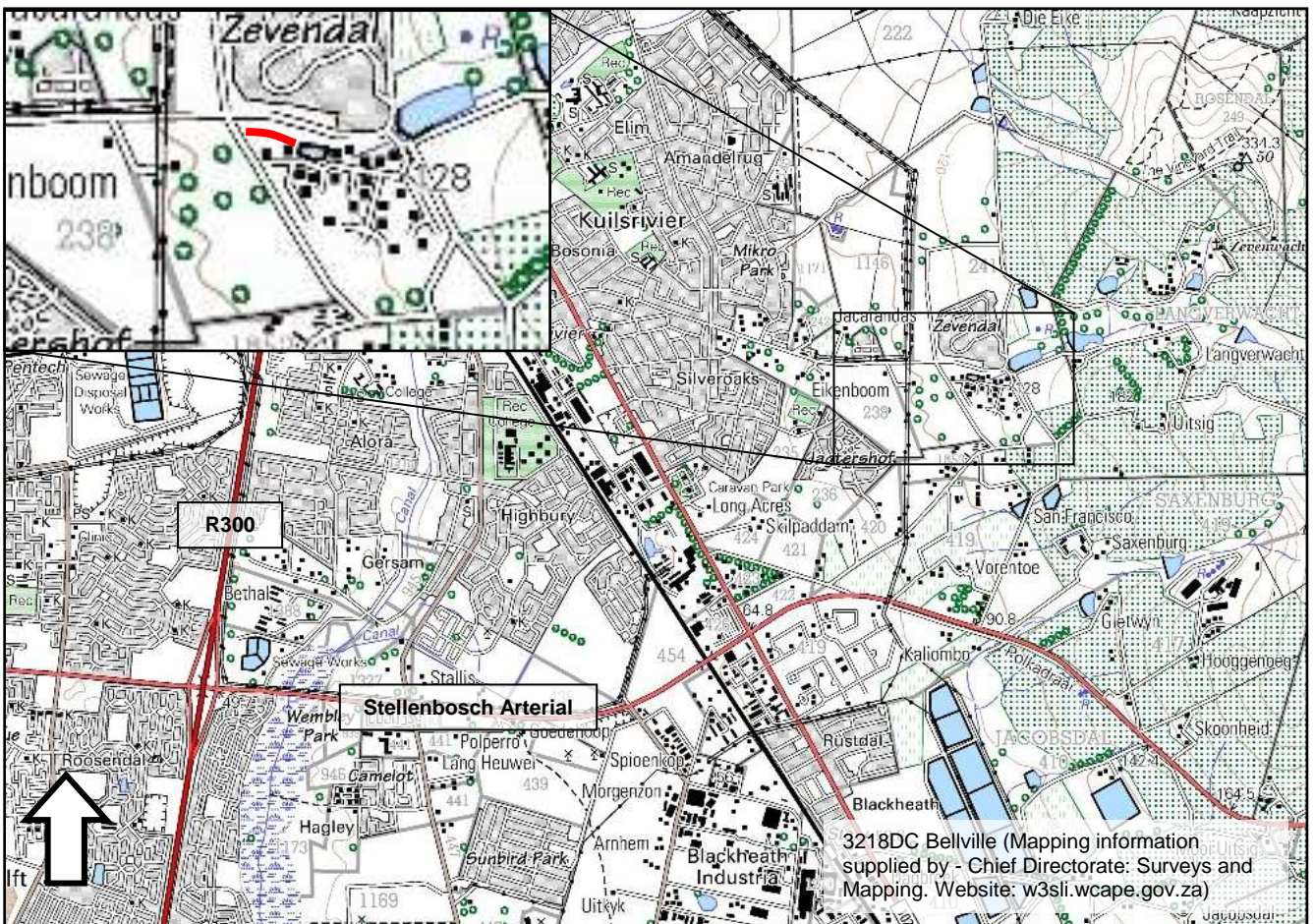


Figure 1: Map showing the location of the study area in Kuils River. The red line on the inset map shows the position of the proposed berm.

2. HERITAGE LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) No. 25 of 1999 protects a variety of heritage resources including palaeontological, prehistoric and historical material (including ruins) more than 100 years old (Section 35), human remains (Section 36) and non-ruined structures older than 60 years (Section 34). Landscapes with cultural significance are also protected under the definition of the National Estate (Section 3 (3.2d)).

Since the project is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, Heritage Western Cape (HWC) is required to provide comment on the proposed project in order to facilitate final decision making by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP).



Figure 2: Aerial photograph (from Google Earth) of the study area showing the location of the proposed berm (red line). Other minor remedial measures will occur at the two red circles.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The site is part of two residential estates and has been heavily modified. It is grass-covered and a stream traverses it. This stream is artificially created through the routing of storm water runoff along that line and it is unclear whether any natural drainage lines traversed the area prior to its development. Various dams and ponds occur along the stream and in places it runs through pipes and culverts.



Figure 3: West end of the study area where new pipes



Figure 4: New culverts will be installed under the

will be installed.

access driveway.



Figure 5: Vicinity where the berm (red line) will be constructed.



Figure 6: Gabions will be built around these pipe outlets at the far east end of the study area.

4. HERITAGE CONTEXT

The area was once agricultural land but has been developed very rapidly over the last few years such that little remains of the prior landscape. The residential developments and roads are all modern.

Recent work in Durbanville, 14.5 km to the north, has revealed Later Stone Age material in this type of environment for the first time. It is notoriously difficult finding such material in areas that are usually covered by thick grass, but there some deflated areas alongside a natural stream revealed the artefacts (Orton 2009). The area would certainly have been used by indigenous groups in the past but historical and modern agricultural use of the land has obliterated or concealed any surviving traces.

5. METHODS

A survey of the site as conducted on 9th June 2010 and photographs were taken.

5.1. Limitations

The thick grass cover over most of the study area prevented adequate visibility but I do not believe that any highly significant heritage resources will have been obscured.

6. FINDINGS

6.1. Palaeontology and Archaeology

No palaeontological or archaeological material was noted and no significant finds are expected to occur. The possibility of uncovering or displacing isolated stone artefacts does exist, however.

6.2. Built environment

No structures other than modern walls and drainage features will be affected.

6.3. Visual impact

The proposed berm will be of earth and will be grass-covered. As such it will blend with the existing surroundings perfectly. The size and scale of the berm and channel are of no consequence in what is otherwise a highly modified modern context.

7. CONCLUSIONS

No heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Subject to the approval of Heritage Western Cape, the proposed project should be allowed to continue with no further heritage work required.

9. REFERENCES

Orton, J. 2009. Survey and mapping of heritage on parts of Groot Phesantekraal 1165 and Joostenbergs Vlakte 725, Belville Magisterial District, Western Cape. Unpublished report prepared for Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.